

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 05608 021111Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /055 W
-----021118Z 092132 /11

O R 021022Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 784
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN GENERAL ELECTION: JAKARTA GOES TO THE POLLS

REF: JAKARTA 5546 (DTG 291105Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL IMPRESSION OF EMBOFFS WHO COVERED ALL
AREAS OF JAKARTA DURING VOTING HOURS MAY 2 WAS THAT
ELECTION DAY WAS CALM AND ORDERLY. OFFICIAL VOTING PROCEDURES
WERE CAREFULLY EXECUTED, VOTERS WERE PROMPT BUT RELAXED,
AND BALLOTS WERE COUNTED IN FULL VIEW OF PUBLIC.
LATE IN DAY ELECTION BOARD CONFIRMED THAT PUBLICATION
OF ELECTION RESULTS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO
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PAGE 02 JAKART 05608 021111Z

BEGIN THIS EVNING WOULD BE POSTPONED FOR DAY OR TWO,
A MOVE WHICH IS CERTAIN TO STIMULATE RENWED CHARGES OF
GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL ELECTION VOTING IN JAKARTA MAY 2 WAS PEACEFUL,
SMOOTH AND GENERALLY UNEVENTFUL. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED

MORE THAN 200 POLLING STATIONS DURING VOTING HOURS, COVERING ALL AREAS OF JAKARTA INCLUDING CHINESE DISTRICT AND AREA AROUND UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA. ALTHOUGH STYLE OF FURNISHINGS VARIED SOMEWHAT BETWEEN POOR AND PROSPEROUS NEIGHBORHOODS, BASIC FORMAT OF POLLING STATIONS, ALMOST ALL OF WHICH WERE OPEN AIR, WAS IDENTICAL. OFFICIAL VOTING PROCEDURES APPEARED IN MOST CASES TO BE FOLLOWED WITH CARE. VOTERS SEEMED GOOD NATURED, PATIENT AND ORDERLY. OVERALL MOOD WAS ONE OF CALM COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIC DUTY. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF VOTERS BEING TRANSPORTED TO POLLING PLACES IN LARGE NUMBERS. BY 11 A.M. MOST POLLING STATIONS APPEARED TO HAVE PROCESSED ALL VOTERS ASSIGNED THEM.

2. MOST MARKETS AND SHOPS WERE CLOSED DURING VOTING HOURS, AND TRAFFIC ON CITY STREETS WAS LIGHT. SHOPS IN CHINESE DISTRICT WERE TIGHTLY SHUTTERED. VERY FEW POLICE OR MILITARY PATROLS WERE IN EVIDENCE ON THE STREET ALTHOUGH EACH POLLING STATION HAD TWO OR THREE CIVIL SECURITY GUARDS ASSIGNED TO IT.

3. VOTE COUNTING STARTED AT 2 P.M. WHEN POLLS CLOSED AND WAS CONDUCTED IN FULL VIEW OF PUBLIC. RESULTS WERE POSTED ON BOARDS AT EACH POLLING PLACE. (IN SOME DOZEN TOLLS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICE DISTRICT VISITED BY EMBOFFS, GOLKAR WAS LEADING BY SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY IN MOST, PPP HAD NARROW LEAD IN TWO OR THREE AND PDI WAS RUNNING POOR TO GOOD THIRD N ALL.)

4. LATE IN THE DAY THE ELECTION INSTITUTE ANNOUNCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 JAKART 05608 021111Z

THAT ELECTION RETURNS, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE MADE PUBLIC BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. TODAY, WOULD NOT BE RELEASED FOR "ONE OR TWO DAYS." THIS DECISION, MADE BY INTERIOR MINISTER AMIRMACHMUD, WAS OFFICIALLY ATTRIBUTED TO TWO FACTORS: THE DESIRE TO RELEASE THE RETURNS IN TOTO RATHER THAN PIECEMEAL; AND THE NEED TO REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THEY ARE PUBLICIZED. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF AT THE ELECTION INSTITUTE TOLD EMBOFF THAT AMIRMACHMUD MADE THIS DECISION AFTER CONFERRING BY TELEPHONE WITH THE GOVERNORS OF ALL 26 PROVINCES PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION, WHO ADVISED HIM THAT RETURNS WERE COMING IN TOO SLOWLY TO PERMIT A WORTHWHILE RELEASE OF RESULTS TODAY. PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNORS UNANIMOUSLY REPORTED THE ELECTIONS IN THEIR AREAS WERE CONDUCTED EFFICIENTLY AND SECURELY AND THAT THERE WERE NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH LED TO THE DELAY IN REPORTING RESULTS.

5. COMMENT: THE UNFORTUNATE LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO POSTPONE PUBLICATION OF ELECTION RETURNS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE

EVEN MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HONESTY AND VALIDITY OF THE
VOTE REPORTING SYSTEM. WHETHER BASED ON SIMPLE NERVOUSNESS
OF THE PART OF AMIRMAHMUD OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
ON THE CLAIMED "TECHNICAL" REASONS, OR ON EARLY
ADVERSE RETURNS (FROM GOLKAR STANDPOINT) IN JAKARTA OR
ELSEWHERE, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT WILL BE
DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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